Goods transportation by shipping

†2623. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage that shipping accounts for in the total goods transportation;

(b) the percentage of increase that is aimed at by Government in this field in the ensuing three years; and

(c) the names of the rivers that have been earmarked by Government for developing as waterways for transportation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Country's International Trade of about 95% by volume and 70% by value of the Country's trade is carried through Maritime transport. The share of coastal shipping in the inland movement of cargo is around 7%.

(b) For coastal shipping, the Government has not projected the percentage of increase in the ensuing three years. However, the share in the movement of Inland cargo from 7% to 15% by the year by the year 2025 has been proposed in the draft policy document for the maritime sector. In case of International shipping similar projections are not required, as most of the bulk and container cargo already move through ships.

(c) The following three rivers/canals have been declared as national waterways for shipping and navigation:

(i) The Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia.

(ii) The Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya.

(iii) The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara canals.

In addition, the following rivers have been earmarked by the Government to declare as new Inland Waterways:—

(i) Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry Stretch of River Godavari alongwith Wazirabad-Vijayawada Stretch of River Krishna integrated with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Kakinada Canal, Eluru Canal, Commamur Canal and Buckingham Canal.

(ii) Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal (ECC) alongwith Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of matai river, Talcher-Dhamra stretch of River Brahmani and Mangalgadi—Paradip stretch of Mahanadi delta river.

(iii) Karimganj-Lakhipur stretch of river Barak.

Improving of cruise shipping

2624. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cruise shipping in India is in a poor state as compared to its status in countries in Caribbean, Latin America and South East Asia;

(b) the present strength of cruise ship both in the public and private sectors in the country with passenger capacity in each sector; and

(c) the specific steps proposed by Government to appreciably improve the position of cruise shipping in India by the turn of this decade?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Cruise Shipping is in a nascent stage in India.

(b) There is no cruise ship under Indian flag at present.

(c) The following steps have been taken and are being taken to improve the position of cruise shipping in India:—

(i) A High Power Steering Group has been set up with a view to catalyze the growth and development of cruise shipping in India.

(ii) Cabotage has been relaxed for cruise ships for a period of 5 years from December, 2003.

(iii) Upto 50% rebate has been given in vessel related charges including berth hire, pilotage, etc.

(iv) Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Tuticorin and Chennai Ports are being projected as part of the Indian cruise circuit.

(v) Systems and procedures are being streamlined to facilitate seamless travel of the tourists.